

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01616 051711Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----027962 051713Z /64

O P 051647Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8342
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1616

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

SUBJ: RHODESIA: PRESIDENT KAUNDA OFFERS TO MEET WITH MUZOREWA

1. AT ONE POINT IN MY MAY 5 CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA I ASKED WHETHER HE THOUGHT THERE WAS ANY LIKELIHOOD OF SOME OF THE INTERNAL NATIONALISTS COMING OUT OF RHODESIA. HE ANSWERED MORE DIRECTLY AND SPECIFICALLY THAN IS HIS WONT, SAYING HE KNEW THAT CERTAIN PERSONS (PRESUMABLY DAVID OWEN) HAD SUGGESTED TO MARK CHONA THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS MEETING WITH BISHOP MUZOREWA. KAUNDA SAID HE WAS QUITE WILLING TO DO THAT, BUT HE COULD NOT DO SO IN LUSAKA. THE BISHOP HAD SAID SO MANY NASTY THINGS ABOUT HIM AND ZAMBIA THAT THERE WOULD BE A REACTION IF HE MET HIM HERE. HE WOULD BE QUITE WILLING, HOWEVER, TO MEET HIM OPENLY IN SOME PRIVATE PLACE ELSEWHERE IN ZAMBIA. KAUNDA SAID THAT SITHOLE HAD BEEN LESS CRITICAL OF HIM AND OF ZAMBIA IN HIS PUBLIC REFERENCES, IMPLYING THAT A MEETING WITH HIM WOULD BE EASIER. I NOTED SITHOLE'S PUBLIC REMARKS ABOUT THE
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IMPORTANCE OF GOOD RELATIONS WITH ZAMBIA.

2. COMMENT: KAUNDA APPARENTLY HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT MUZOREWA HAD PUT OUT FEELERS FOR A MEETING WITH HIM. WHERE THIS ASSUMPTION COMES FROM I DO NOT KNOW. HOWEVER, I THINK IT QUITE POSSIBLE THAT IN PUBLIC COMMENTS IN THE NEXT WEEK OR TWO KAUNDA WOULD MENTION HIS WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITH MUZOREWA SINCE HE

USUALLY SHARES WITH THE PRESS THE SUBSTANCE OF WHAT HE IS
THINKING PRIVATELY. I BELIEVE SUCH A STATEMENT COULD BE HELPFUL
IN CREATING AN ATMOSPHERE CONDUCIVE TO MEETINGS WHICH COULD
LEAD UP TO AN ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE.
LOW

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Message Attributes

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